

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 EB-07 TRSE-00
COME-00 /070 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:ALEGGIO:PG
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
-----280102Z 101334 /20
O 280044Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123861

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, LY, IT, TS

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S MEETING WITH
TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR HEDDA, MAY 27.

1. HEDDA REQUESTED AN URGENT MEETING WITH ATHERTON THIS
MORNING. HE SAID THAT NOUIRA HAD TELEPHONED HIM EARLIER
THIS MORNING, ASKING HEDDA TO ALERT THE DEPARTMENT ON THE
ARRIVAL OF THE BATES RIG ACCOMPANIED BY A LIBYAN SUBMARINE
AND THREE LIBYAN GUNBOATS. HEDDA SAID GOT AT THE MOMENT
WAS NOT SURE WHAT ITS COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE, PERHAPS
IT WOULD BRING THE ISSUE BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

2.ATHERTON CONVEYED OUR STRONG CONCERN IN THIS MATTER,
RECOUNTING THE LETTER TO READING AND BATES AND OUR TALKS
WITH THEM PLUS OUR LACK OF ANY LEGAL RECOURSE. HE ALSO
EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN OVER ANY EMPLOYMENT OF FORCE AND,
OF COURSE, OVER THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN CREW MEMBERS
INVOLVED. HE THOUGHT BRINGING THE ISSUE TO THE SECURITY
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COUNCIL MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

3. HEDDA STATED THAT ALL THE ARAB STATES (INCLUDING IRAQ
AND ALGERIA) WERE ON THE TUNISIAN SIDE IN THIS DISPUTE
WITH LIBYA. HE ALSO SAID THAT WHILE THE GOT WOULD UNDER-

STAND OUR LEGAL BIND, THE TUNISIAN PEOPLE WILL NOT BE

ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT COULD GET THE SCARABEO OUT OF THE DISPUTED WATERS, BUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS POWERLESS TO DO THE SAME WITH ONE OF ITS OWN SHIPS. HEDDA SAID THE LIBYAN AIM IN USING AN AMERICAN SHIP WAS TO "CREATE CONFUSION" IN TUNISIAN-US RELATIONS.

4. HEDDA SAID HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO MEET WITH SENATORS BARTLETT AND BELLMON OF OKLAHOMA TO ASK FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN PERSUADING THE PARENT COMPANY OF READING AND BATES IN TULSA TO DESIST FROM THIS ACTION, BUT HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT THEM. HE IS READY TO FLY TO OKLAHOMA TOMORROW TO SEE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES.

5. ATHERTON TOLD HEDDA WE WOULD CONTACT OUR UN AND H PEOPLE TO ASK FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER. HE WOULD ALSO INFORM SENATOR STONE THIS AFTERNOON, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IN TUNISIA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, CONTINENTAL SHELF, DISPUTES, NAVAL SHIPS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, ENRG, MOPS, LY, IT, TS, US, READING & BATES
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